

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 SS-15
SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 /051 W
-----085074 231448Z /50

O 231407Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5159

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 15465

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: EAIR, IT

SUBJECT: GOI THREAT TO PAN AM FLIGHTS BEYOND ROME

REF: (A) ROME 15380 (B) ROME 6733 (C) ROME 14501

(D) ROME 15198

1. PIETROSANTO (MFA) CLARIFIED WARNING IN PARA 5, REF (A)
IN TELEPHONE CALL AUG. 23 THAT CIVILAVIA REGARDS AUG. 25 AS LAST
DAY ON WHICH PAN AM WITHIN CAPACITY CEILING AND THAT, THEREFORE,
"THINGS WILL GET HOT OVER THE WEEKEND,"(AUGUST 26 AND 27).

2. EMBOFF DISCUSSED SITUATION WITH ROME PAN AM MANAGER GUZZARDO,
WHO HAD JUST RETURNED FROM LONDON, ON AUG. 23. GUZZARDO SAID
BLOCKAGE OF FLIGHTS AT ROME WILL BE DISASTROUS IN VIEW OF NUMBER
OF PASSENGERS INVOLVED AND IMPOSSIBILITY OF PLACING THEM ON OTHER
FLIGHTS ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE.

3. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT DEPARTMENT PROVIDE EMBASSY WITH NOTE
VERBALE TO BE DELIVERED AT HIGH LEVEL AT MFA,
THAT WOULD STRESS EXTENSIVE DISRUPTION TO PASSENGER SERVICE
THROUGH AND AT ROME THAT WOULD BE CAUSED BY ANY SUDDEN BLOCKAGE
OF PAN AM FLIGHTS BEYOND ROME. WE THINK NOTE SHOUD STATE
THAT MFA NOTE 079/6064 OF PARIL 4, 1978 (REF B) WAS IN-
TERPRESTED BY USG REASONABLY AS TO WHAT WAS MEANT BY
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"USABLE CAPACITY" AS OPPOSED TO "CAPACITY OFFERED"
AND ON BASIS CONVENTIONAL UNDERSTANDING OF MEANING OF
FIFTH FREEDOM, DIFFERING GOI INTREPRETATION
WAS FIRST APPLIED TO INCLUDE TRANSIT PASSENGERS AS
WELL AS FIFTH FREEDOM PASSENGERS IN MFA NOTE 079/6064
DATED AUGUST 4, 1978 BUT RECEIVED BY EMBASSY ON AUGUST 7
(REF C) IN AIDE MEMOIRE PRESENTED ON AUG. 22

WAS "USABLE CAPACITY" DEFINED TO INCLUDE EMPTY SEATS.
SUCH REDEFINING OF CAPACITY FREEZE APPEARS TO BE BOTH
ARBITRARY AND LATE IN THE DAY. IN VIEW OF ESPECIALLY OF UN-
NECESSARY HARDSHIPS THAT WOULD BE CREATED AT ROME'S LEONARDO DA
VINCI AIRPORT TO BOTH TRANSIT AND FIFTH FREEDOM PAS-
SENGERS BY ENFORCING A CEILING ON BASIS OF CALCULATIONS
PROVIDED IN AIDE MEMOIRE OF AUG 22. USG AGAIN URGES
GOI TO DISIST FROM HARRASSMENT BY ITS CIVAIR AUTHORITIES
OF US AIRLINE OPERATIONS AND TO ADDRESS THE ISSUES
INVOLVED IN THIS DISPUTE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS TO BE
HELD IN ROME IN OCTOBER.

4. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO CONSIDER ADVISABILITY OF
OFFERING TO MAKE AVAILABLE FOR DAY OR TWO US CIVAIR
NEGOTIATING OFFICIALS BEFORE OCTOBER NEGOTIATING
SESSION -- PERHAPS FROM NEGOTIATING TEAM THAT MAY BE
IN EUROPE FOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH FRG OR OTHER COUNTRY.
DEPARTMENT MAY ALSO WISH CONSIDER WHETHER TO REFER TO
POSSIBLE COMPROMISE THAT WOULD INCLUDE TRANSIT PAS-
SENGERS BUT NOT EMPTY SEATS. ON BASIS ESTIMATES
PROVIDED BY PAN AM (PARA 2, REF D) PAN AM WOULD EXCEED
CALLING BY ONLY 6 PERCENT BY END OF SEASON IF
TRANSITS INCLUDED -- AND WOULD NOT REACH CEILING UNTIL
SOMETIME IN OCTOBER.HOLMES

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